

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 9 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. MIDEAST AIRCRAFT SALES PACKAGE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE
FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN WAKE OF REPORTS THAT CARTER ADMINIS-
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TRATION WAS SEEKING COMPROMISE. TYPICAL OF COVERAGE WAS
REPORT BY CHARLES CORDDRY OF BALTIMORE SUN THAT "CARTER
ADMINISTRATION SHAPED UP COMPROMISE ON MIDEAST AIRCRAFT
SALES YESTERDAY THAT WOULD PROVIDE ISRAEL--EVENTUALLY--
WITH MORE JETS AND UNDERTAKE TO BAR SAUDI ARABIAN F-15'S
FROM USE IN ANY FUTURE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. THERE WAS NO
INTIMATION FROM BACKSTAGE MANEUVERING ON CAPITOL HILL, HOW-

EVER, THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD BACK AWAY FROM HIS PLAN TO SELL SAUDI ARABIA FULL COMPLEMENT OF 60 OF PREMIER F-15'S--MATTER SAUDIS REPRESENT AS CRUCIAL TEST OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH U.S." CORDDRY SAID ONE PART OF ADMINISTRATION COMPROMISE, IT WAS UNDERSTOOD, IS TO HAVE DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN SET FORTH ASSURANCES ON BASING AND ARMING OF SAUDI PLANES. "OTHER--FOR ADMINISTRATION, QUITE EASY--PART IS TO MAKE COMMITMENT TO FURTHER PROVISION OF PLANES TO ISRAEL. THIS, PARADOXICALLY, WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR SOME OPPONENTS OF MIDEAST ARMS SALES TO BACK ADMINISTRATION." SUN CORRESPONDENT SAID "COMPROMISE, WHICH ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES WILL INSURE SAFE PASSAGE OF SALES IN CONGRESS, IS REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO PROPOSALS MADE BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE YESTERDAY BY HENRY A. KISSINGER, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE. MR. KISSINGER KEEPS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HIS SUCCESSOR, CYRUS R. VANCE, AND OBSERVERS ASSUMED WHAT HE TOLD SENATORS WAS IN GENERAL PREVIEW OF WHAT SEVERAL OF THEM MAY HEAR FROM SECRETARY OF STATE IN BREAKFAST MEETING TODAY." KISSINGER, IN HIS TESTIMONY, MADE CLEAR HE SUPPORTED SALES, REPORTED BERNARD WEINRAUB OF NEW YORK TIMES. HE SAID KISSINGER TOLD COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, HE HAD "QUESTIONS" ABOUT TIMING AND EFFICACY OF ADMINISTRATION'S CONCEPT OF PACKAGING SALES. "IT WOULD BE BETTER TO JUDGE EACH OF THEM ON ITS OWN MERITS," KISSINGER SAID. "I WISH IT HAD NOT BEEN PUT FORWARD AS PACKAGE."

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2. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT DREW MIDDLETON, REPORTING FROM PARIS, SAID THERE IS BASIC UNEASINESS IN NATO ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. DEFENSE POLICIES TOWARD WESTERN EUROPE. "THIS UNEASINESS, EXPRESSED FORCEFULLY IF ANONYMOUSLY BY PROMINENT FIGURES IN WEST GERMANY, BRITAIN, FRANCE, ITALY, NORWAY AND DENMARK, IS MATCHED BY AN INCREASING CONCERN AMONG AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICERS AND DIPLOMATS," MIDDLETON SAID. HE SAID NATO MILITARY AND POLITICAL LEADERS "ARE AWARE OF STEADY GROWTH OF SOVIET CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR STRENGTH AND THEY KNOW THAT SOVIET UNION, DESPITE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND SLOWING OF ITS ANNUAL GROWTH RATE, CONTINUES TO INCREASE ARMS EXPENDITURES FOUR TO FIVE PERCENT ANNUALLY."

3. NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED REUTER REPORT THAT ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE WILL LEAD U.S. DELEGATION AT TALKS WITH SOVIET UNION NEXT MONTH ON BANNING SO-CALLED HUNTER-KILLER SATELLITES. REPORT SAID TALKS WILL OPEN JUNE 8 IN HELSINKI. "SOVIET UNION HAS DEVELOPED WEAPON, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF SEEKING OUT SATELLITES IN ORBIT AND DESTROYING THEM, OVER LAST TEN YEARS," REUTER SAID. VANCE

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